

RIDGE LINES

www.gmcburlington.org

Winter 2008 - 2009

Save March 27 for a Trip to Uganda!

Almost a hundred years ago, James P. Taylor sat on a mountaintop and imagined a hiking trail running the length of Vermont, from the Massachusetts border to Canada. His dream became the Long Trail, the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the country. To honor Taylor's memory, the Green Mountain Club presents an annual series of lectures that bring Vermonters information and inspiration about outdoor adventures in our own backyard and beyond. This series of talks and programs brightens our winters with stories and photographs from around the globe. For details about all of the programs in this year's series, go to www.greenmountainclub.org and search Taylor Series.

The Burlington Section will sponsor the Taylor Series event in March 2009. Come and hear Marc and Peggy Faucher as they tell us about their adventures when they were

Climbing Uganda's Mountains of the Moon

Marc and Peggy have spent the last 22 years exploring the world and have now visited all seven continents. They've hiked extensively in Asia, Africa and South America. Their trip to Uganda to climb the three highest mountains in the Rwenzori Range ranks as one of their favorite trips. Marc and Peggy will share stories and photographs from this trek and their safari to see rare mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Friday, March 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM

McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall

St. Michael's College in Colchester

Admission is \$5 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. Kids under 12 are free.

Tickets are available at the door only.

All proceeds support GMC's local sections and the Education Program.

Lost on Mt. Mansfield!

We asked our readers for stories about winter hiking adventures. You'll find two of the stories on page 3. We're planning to print at least two more in the March issue.

Also inside this issue – Information about the Burlington Section Annual Meeting ... Reservations Form for the Annual Meeting ... Interview with a Trip Leader ... European Hiking Opportunity ... Outings for December through March

Burlington Section Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 31, 2009, starting at 5PM, at the Faith United Methodist Church, Brand Hall, 899 Dorset Street, South Burlington. We've made some changes in the schedule to keep things running smoothly and insure that we have enough time to enjoy our guest speakers. Here's the new schedule:

5:00 – 5:45 Socializing
5:45 – 6:45 Dinner
6:45 – 7:45 Business Meeting
7:45 – 8:00 Break and Set Up for Speaker
8:00 Speakers' Presentation
9:00 - Q & A

The form on page 8 has information about what to bring with you for supper. You can use the form to make your reservations or you can pay at the door.

Presentation:

Long-Distance Hiking - The Good, the Bad and the Downright Ugly

Long distance hiking brings out the best and worst in people, especially when the hike seems to go on forever. You will hear some of the best and some of the worst when Chris Hanna and Mary Lou Recor show their slides and talk about their differences on the Pacific Crest Trail in 2007, 2008 and possibly 2009. The one thing they agree on is that the scenery is spectacular! Highlights include desert flora, rattlesnakes, Mount Whitney (which Chris and Mary Lou climbed), Mount Shasta, Crater Lake and the long-sought U.S./Canada border marker.

European Hiking Opportunity!

Have you dreamed about taking a tour of Mont Blanc? The Adirondack Mountain Club has scheduled a 14-day trip for September 3-16, 2009. It's a 105-mile circle around the base of the mountain. You'll hike in the French, Italian, and Swiss Alps, looking at Mont Blanc and its surrounding peaks, glaciers, and alpine valleys. Burlington Section Member Carlene Squires has signed up for this classic 14-day hiking experience. There's still time for others to register. You have to be a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club. (Carlene sent in her dues as soon as she read an announcement about the Mont Blanc hike.) If you want to find out more, go to Adirondack Mountain Club, click on Recreation and then Travel and then the link for Adventure Travel Trips. Carlene says, "I'm looking forward to fulfilling my dream, and I hope there are a few others who will consider this opportunity too!"

Check out page 18 in the Winter 2008 Long Trail News for a stunning photo of hikers on Mont Blanc.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Phil Hazen	355-7181
Secretary	Linda Evans	899-3006
Treasurer	Joel Tilley	865-9220
Membership	Dot Myer	863-2433
Special Events	Anneliese Koenig	862-4629
Outings	Paul Houchens	658-1321
	Rich Larsen	878-6828
Trails	Pam Gillis	879-1457
	John Sharp	862-3941
Shelters	Linda Evans	899-3006
Director	Sue Girouard	644-5941
Ridge Lines	Maeve Kim	899-4327

Welcome!

The following people have recently joined the Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club:

Matthew Coll, Joey Corcoran, David Fisher, Abbi Jaffe, Mark and Lisa Lagerquist, Todd Pritsky and Stephanie Pollak, Miguel Bosse. William Gagnon. Declan Noonan. Bonnie Schaeffer. Richard Dickstein, Laurie Hume. Ronnet Sasse. Heather Allin. Patrick Burke. Jeremy and Stacey Chapman. Branden Cote. Jeanne Kellner. Daniel Lane, Tabatha Small

Lost on Mansfield!

By David Hathaway

A few years ago, at about 1 PM on an overcast afternoon in late December, I set out to climb through Nebraska Notch from Stevensville. There was a little snow on the ground, but not too much, so I didn't bother with snowshoes. I didn't bring a map or compass. I'd lived in Underhill for over 15 years, had done all the hiking trails on Mansfield in most kinds of weather, and was convinced I couldn't get lost!

For some reason, when I passed the Underhill Ski trail turn-off, I decided to follow it instead of staying on the Nebraska Notch Trail. I'd never taken the turn-off before, but I convinced myself that even though I didn't know where the trail went, I couldn't get lost. After all, I was turning into the triangle formed by the Nebraska Notch Trail, Butler Lodge Trail and Long Trail. I'd know if I crossed any of those familiar and well-marked trails.

After I'd hiked for a while, I was surprised that I hadn't yet crossed one of the trails. But since what I thought was the south tail of the Mansfield ridge was still to my right, and I didn't think I'd crossed any of my triangle of trails, I thought I knew where I was. Eventually I ran into a signed cross-country ski trail, at which point I made my big mistake.

Even without a map and compass, I "knew" where I was, and it was getting close to dark. I followed a trail down from this junction that I thought would get me back to Stevensville faster, rather than retracing my steps. I assumed I'd come out on the old logging road that continues up from where Butler Lodge and Frost Trails start.

The farther down I went, the more ski trails I saw. At first I was amazed that I had been unaware of this network of trails right in my own backyard, but I eventually became convinced that something was wrong. But I was so convinced of where I was that it wasn't until I saw the headlights of cars going down Route 108 that I realized I'd actually hiked over the ridge to Stowe. I'd crossed the Long Trail without realizing it. The slope I'd been keeping to my right, thinking it was Mansfield, was actually Mt. Dewey, which I'd hiked around without knowing it.

By this time, it was almost totally dark. I found a general store and called my wife, who drove the 50 miles around the mountain to come get me, though she wasn't too happy about doing so.

I made a lot of mistakes that day, including:

- following a trail I didn't know without a map or compass
- assuming I'd be able to see a trail crossing when it was snowing, overcast and getting dark
- hiking out via a "shortcut" instead of retracing my steps when I didn't know for sure where I was
- not bringing a headlamp

I was lucky to have made it out without having to spend a night lost in the woods.

Not Lost on Mansfield!

By Robynn Albert

In March 2008, I hiked up Mansfield via Sunset Ridge, led by Peter Cottrell. It was a cloudy day but not too cold. About twelve of us were on this outing, with all levels of hiking expertise and a wide range of ages. Not too long after we started up, our surroundings became almost eerie because of fog. Then, when we were just on the ridge, the wind whipped up. Of course, the snow was blowing like crazy. It was wild, in a fun way for me! I love adventures, especially the unexpected ones.

We approached the summit, guided by CB with his GPS device and RL with his compass. It took a few minutes to determine whether we were truly on the summit or not. The visibility was not more than 20 feet.

Suddenly, a snowboarder appeared out of nowhere. He'd become separated from his group. A couple of us tried to steer him back on track and heading for the ski trails. But about 20 minutes after we left the summit, we ran into him again. He was way off course. That wasn't really a surprise because the visibility was so limited. It was scary, thinking about him. I really expected to pick up the paper the next day and see that a snowboarder was missing. Thankfully, this did not happen.

Trip Leader Profile: Robynn Albert

By Valerie Wilkins

When I contacted Robynn about being interviewed for this article, she responded with an enthusiastic "Yes!" A few days later, she followed up with directions to her house and an invitation to come for dinner too! As I got to know Robynn during the interview, I learned that this thoughtfulness and generosity is a big part of who she is.

Robynn grew up just across the lake in Elizabethtown, New York. She caught the hiking bug early on from her dad who enjoyed taking the family on regular hikes in the Adirondacks. Robynn still hikes with her dad on occasion. In fact, when she led a group up Giant Mountain this fall, her dad joined the group for the hike and for a healthy serving of pie at the Noonmark Diner afterwards!

Since her early years, Robynn has continued hiking and has added snowshoeing and biking to her list of favorite activities. Until recently, most of her time outdoors has been on her own or with one or two friends. But, through her recent association with the Green Mountain Club, she has come to love sharing the outdoor experience with others.

Robynn first learned of the Green Mountain Club in the spring of 2007 when she saw an ad in the local newspaper for a GMC slide show at St. Michael's College. At the slide show, she met up with friends Russ and Lilo Kinaman and had a wonderful evening. She picked up a GMC brochure and joined the club soon after. Her first GMC hike was on Linda Evan's annual Sadie Hawkins Day outing. Robynn came away from that first hike inspired to get more involved with the club.

In April 2008, Robynn participated in a trip leader orientation led by Rich Larsen and Paul Houchens. On the hike to Nebraska Notch and Taylor Lodge, Robynn displayed her sense of adventure by going with Paul, Phil Hazen, and a few others on the more difficult Clara Bow Trail while the rest of the group went on the more moderate Long Trail. With lots of snow and ice on the trail, the Clara Bow Trail turned out to be quite challenging, but they all had some good stories to tell when they rejoined the group at the lodge!

Robynn's first trip for the GMC was on a perfect July 4th day when she led a group of seventeen people and four dogs to the summit of Camels Hump. What Robynn loved most about this hike was witnessing the relationships that developed among the people in the group as the day progressed. Whether folks signed up for the hike with a friend or on their own, everyone found some camaraderie and good conversation out on the trail that day. At the top of the mountain, they all gathered for a photo. When they got back to their cars, they enjoyed refreshments before heading their separate ways.

When I asked Robynn if there was anything *Ridge Lines* readers would enjoy knowing about her, she shared that one of her dreams is to own a red '64, '65 or '66 Mustang convertible. As I left Robynn's house, I could tell she was still thinking about my question. A few days later, I received an email from her with another great story about a construction job she held for three summers during college. Her first day of work involved hauling brush in the woods and throwing it into a chipper. She was quite nervous, as she was the only female on the job. But her fears were unfounded. She wrote that her male co-workers on the job could not have been nicer and made her feel like part of the crew right from the start. This ability to connect with and appreciate other people seems to come naturally to Robynn.

Join Robynn for an upcoming hike!

She'll be leading outings on December 27, January 24, February 14 and March 7. See the outing schedule for more details.